

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (original) Finger protector (1; 1''), particularly for a sports glove, comprising an outer piece (2; 2'; 2'') and an inner piece (3; 3'; 3''), the outer piece (2; 2'; 2'') including an elongate, raised midsection (22) with laterally protruding straps (23; 23'; 23'') and an end part (21; 21'), wherein the midsection has transverse webs (24; 24'; 24'') formed to be spaced apart from each other by transverse slots, with the inner piece (3; 3'; 3'') having an elongate shape and on either side thereof tie webs (33; 33'; 33'') interconnected through expanding webs (34; 34'; 34''), wherein an end part (31; 31') is arranged at the inner piece, and the expanding webs (34; 34'; 34'') of the inner piece (3; 3'; 3'') engage in the transverse slots of the outer piece (2; 2'; 2'') such that the finger protector (1; 1'') is movable in one direction for bending the finger such as for making a fist and locks in the opposite direction, in order to prevent excessive stretching of the finger in the direction towards the back of the hand.

2. (original) Finger protector in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that the transverse webs (24'; 24'') include a central recess (25'; 25'') on the outer piece (2'; 2'') such that the respective transverse slot is broadened in the center range, and that the expanding webs (34'; 34'') of the inner piece (3'; 3'') contain an enlarged portion (35'; 35''; 35''') complementary thereto in the center range, with the enlarged portions positively engaging the expanding in the recesses on the transverse webs.

3. (original) Finger protector in accordance with claim 2, characterized in that the recesses (25'') follow a substantially circular contour in the top view.

4. (currently amended) Finger protector in accordance with ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, characterized in that the outer lateral edges of the straps (23) have a rounded shape.

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5. (currently amended) Finger protector in accordance with ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, characterized in that the outer lateral edges of the tie webs (33) have a rounded shape.

6. (currently amended) Method for manufacturing a finger protector (1; 1'') in accordance with ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, characterized by comprising the steps:

furnishing a molding tool for the simultaneous manufacture of at least one respective inner and outer piece (2; 2'; 2'', 3; 3'; 3''),

injection molding the at least one inner and outer piece (2; 2'; 2'', 3; 3'; 3''),

cutting the sprue passage (4, 5) to the suitable length in accordance with the associated finger length by one cut through the inner and outer piece (2; 2'; 2'', 3; 3'; 3''), and

joining together the at least one inner and outer piece (2; 2'; 2'', 3; 3'; 3'') for manufacturing the finger protector (1; 1''), wherein the end parts (21; 21', 31; 31') have an opposed position.

7. (original) Method in accordance with claim 6, characterized in that the molding tools have such a configuration that the inner and outer pieces (2; 2'; 2'', 3; 3'; 3'') are injection molded in the direction of their longitudinal extension.